

THE STUDENT VOICE

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## **Students From All Around The World**

by Becky Kroeger

Here at Louisburg there are many students with different ethnic backgrounds. One way or another they have come here to broaden their horizons and accomplish new goals. At first they may have felt out of place but as time passed they blended in with the student body.

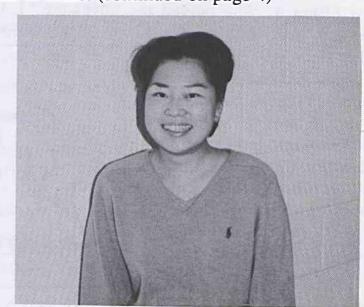
Megu Hasegawa comes from Tokyo, Japan. She said, "I was an exchange student in Indiana my junior year of high school. I liked it so much, that I wanted to further my education here in the United States." Megu learned about Lou-U from a college catalog. Due to the size and student-faculty ratio, Megu chose to come here. She felt that she would get more help here because she does not have much experience translating the English language.

Teachers and students made her feel welcome at Lou-U. Friends gave Megu a party to celebrate her 20th birthday. This was very important to Megu because in Japan when a girl turns 20 the entire town is involved. These parties are similar to our "sweet-sixteen" parties, only larger.

As for teachers, Mrs. Jean Fischer and Mrs. Joyce Bettini have been very helpful. They both have experience with foreign students, and Megu feels very comfortable going to them with any problems. "I like the culture here, but it's a challenge living so far away from my parents," Megu added.

Megu enjoys watching MTV, American movies, and eating pizza and chocolates. She does miss sushi and rice though. In Japan, hot and iced tea machines are just as available as Pepsi machines are here in the United States.

In Japan, many people take off their shoes at the doorway, Megu loves the freedom of wearing her shoes all the time. Learning to shake hands instead of bowing was also an adjustment Megu had to make. (continued on page 4)



Megu Hasegawa in a Kenan hallway.

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