

Grace Davignon 12-17-16

Impressions of Japan

About a month ago, I went on the trip of a lifetime and had the most fun, educational and interesting experience of my life: I went to Japan. I am not exactly sure what I expected before going on the trip, but I know that what I experienced was nothing like what I had imagined. When I landed in Tokyo I started making a list of the differences between American and Japanese culture, but after a while there were way too many to list. After ten days in Japan, I got the impression that the people of Japan are some of the nicest people you will ever meet. In Tokyo, but especially in Tosashimizu, I made personal connections with so many different people that I met; I also learned how traditional their culture is. It amazed me that historical places of serenity, such as Meiji Shrine, existed in the middle of one of the largest, most modernized cities in the world: Tokyo. I learned that the Japanese view old tradition as very important. The cleanliness of the city demonstrates the respect the Japanese have for their country and their environment. The differences between American and Japanese culture were shocking. I loved sharing my experiences with my family and friends through my writing and photography, and giving them a glimpse of what life is like on the other side of the world. The entire trip was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget.