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Dallas man is returning to his native South Korea

Kyle Gallagher, adopted by American family, will study at Yonsei University.

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

Kyle Gallagher was just five months old when he left his native country of South Korea.

Gallagher was taken from his birth town of Pusan City and put on a plane with other babies to be adopted by Americans. He was adopted by Daniel and Cathy Gallagher, of Dallas.

Now 20 years old, Gallagher will return to South Korea on August 23 to take classes at Yonsei University in Seoul, the capital of South Korea. He will spend the entire semester

in South Korea, studying and living with other international students at the Underwood International College at Yonsei University. He will return home on December 20.

A 2007 graduate of the former Bishop O'Reilly High School in Kingston, Gallagher is entering his junior year at St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt., where he is studying business.

He chose to study in South Korea to immerse himself in his birth culture, although he also did consider going to France since he has taken French classes.

"I knew when I applied to the school they had a really good study abroad program," Gallagher said of Yonsei University. "I figured why not take

advantage of it."

Although Gallagher does not speak Korean, he will take a Korean language class at Yonsei and is studying the language on his own. All of his other courses will be taught in English.

Gallagher hopes to immerse himself in South Korean culture, including brand names for clothes, beverages, etc. He is looking forward to eating traditional Southern Korean cuisine, including kimchi, a fermented, spicy vegetable dish usually served at every meal.

"I want to experience the music," he said. "I hear Korean movies are pretty ridiculous, funny-wise."

He declined to comment as to whether or not he will

search for his biological family while in South Korea.

Daniel Gallagher, Kyle's adoptive father, has mixed feelings about his son's journey to South Korea because he knows he will miss Kyle, but also realizes it will be a good experience for him.

"I think he's going to have an incredible experience that will broaden his viewpoint of other cultures and the fact that the United States is just one member of a much larger global community," he said. "And having been born in South Korea, Kyle has always been curious about his place of birth. This trip will, hopefully, help him understand and develop a deeper appreciation



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Kyle Gallagher, of Dallas, leaves August 23 to visit Korea, his birth place, and study there.

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Seeing the lake in a special way

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

Glenn Davis wants to make sure his children's book is as realistic as possible.

Davis, of Lafflin, a retired elementary school teacher and reading specialist, currently teaches children's literature part-time at Misericordia University and is writing a children's mystery book. The book is about a blind boy from Wilkes-Barre who goes to Overbrook School in Philadelphia and lives at Harveys Lake in the summer.

"I had to do more background information on blind people and Harveys Lake," Davis said. "My whole idea with the book is not to be unrealistic, but not to show a blind child as somebody weak who can't do anything."

Davis had a personal encounter with an eye injury as a child when he was hit by a BB. He never realized the severity of the injury until he had surgery to remove cataracts on his eyes a few years ago and required additional work be-

FOR MORE INFO ...

For more information about the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind, contact the organization at 693-3555 or visit www.wilkesbarreblind.com.

cause of the injury.

"When I had the patches on my eye I thought, 'My God, what if I couldn't see again?'" Davis said.

Davis wanted to know more about how blind children experience life so he contacted the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind, an organization founded in 1918 that serves Luzerne and Wyoming counties by assisting the blind and visually impaired, performing vision screenings and educating the public on blindness prevention. While doing his research, Davis learned the organization hosts a summer camp for blind children called "Camp Sight."

This is the third year the Greater Wilkes-Barre association has partnered with the Hazleton Blind Association to



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Cassie Thomas, with assistance from Glenn Davis, steers a pontoon boat around Harveys Lake. Davis, a member of the Harveys Lake Yacht Club, proposed the outing for the blind campers.

sponsor the camp. Twenty children ages 8 to 21 from Northeastern Pennsylvania were enrolled in the program that ran from July 7 through August 13 and was held at the Wilkes-Barre Association's office on Wyoming Avenue in Exeter.

A member of the Harveys Lake Yacht Club, Davis offered to take the campers on his 24-foot pontoon boat on Harveys Lake. Fellow yacht club members Bill and Joan Hilbert, of Harveys Lake, and Bill and Pat Littleton, of Lafflin, also agreed to take the children for

rides on their boats.

About 20 children from "Camp Sight" made the trip to Harveys Lake on August 4 to board the boats to experience a ride on the lake. Davis says he even let the children "drive" as he kept a watchful eye, helping them steer his

boat.

Twenty-year-old Caitlin Trainor, of Dallas, was one of the campers who went on the boat ride.

"She loved the experience," said Mary Alice Trainor, Cait-

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The Rev. Dennis and Lucille Madeira, of Dallas, were recently named the 2009 Northeast Pennsylvania Parents of the Year by the Pennsylvania Family Coalition. From left, are David Madeira, the couple's son; Melanie Madeira, the couple's daughter-in-law; Lucille Madeira and the Rev. Dennis Madeira.

Madeiras named 'Parents of the Year'

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

The Rev. Dennis and Lucille Madeira say they have the best parenting guide ever: the Bible.

The husband and wife from Dallas were recently named the 2009 Northeast Pennsylvania Parents of the Year by the Pennsylvania Family Coalition.

David Madeira, one of the couple's sons, nominated them for the award. The Madeiras received their award, a plaque, on July 25 at a banquet at the Hershey Country Club where The Rev. Dennis Madeira was asked to offer the benediction at the event.

The Madeiras believe it is no accident they were recognized as good parents because they live by the Bible and have used it to teach their children to not only be good

people, but to love and serve the Lord.

"It's what we've tried to be," the Rev. Dennis said. "It's been a goal. We are friendly with our children, but we are their parents. We didn't try to be their 'friends.' You can't let your children grow up by accident. You can't just let them wander like a billiard ball."

As part of David Madeira's letter to nominate his parents, he wrote: "My parents always practiced what they preached," he said. "They were very strict, but we all knew that we were loved unconditionally. My mother would often say, 'Others may, you cannot,' as they would teach us to live by God's standards, not man's. They instilled in us a strong sense of the value of families and children and we (David and his siblings) all have three or

more children. Their generational influence is widely recognized."

The Madeiras, both 65, were married on August 24, 1963. They have four children: Michael, 45; Timothy, 44; David, 42; and Denise, 38. They also have 16 grandchildren and two dogs: Zoe, a Bichon Eskimo, and Buck, a yellow Labrador mix.

"All of our children are serving the Lord; they're serving the community and they're raising their children with the same Godly values that we raised them with," Lucille said. "And that's the highest award."

The Rev. Dennis was ordained as a minister in the non-denominational Church of Christ in 1968. He served as a minister at Westmoor Church of Christ in Kingston for nine years and at New Life

Community Church in Dallas for 26 years. Although the couple considers New Life their home church, the Rev. Dennis still preaches at Westmoor every other month.

Lucille, who has a degree in psychology, received her Biblical counseling certificate from Light University through the American Association of Christian Counselors. She worked as the principal of the former Westmoor Christian

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